

## **An Existential Dream**

A water body, small, round-shaped  
At the foot of a hill beyond the vale.

If you scale up the hill there's a shrine  
Locked from outside, a deity could be seen

As I looked down the hill, I could spot the  
Water body, around which a deer roamed.

And there was a stream beside the hill  
A dead snake was floating in it.

I saw elephants and a one-horn rhino  
Drinking water from the water body

Are there leopards in the jungle,  
Beyond the stream, beyond the hill?

I was inside the locked shrine now  
Trying to figure out the deity

My head twirled, I was gasping for breath.  
What shrine it is and what mountain?

I am getting late for office. Where are  
You? Stop the projector please.

I don't want it to happen to the deer...  
A leopard sprang on the deer

The pond turned red. Someone stop  
The projector please. There are

Leopards all around now and they  
Want to prey on me.

Cold perspiration  
Breaks the vision.

I am already late for the 7 o'clock train.  
I will have to skip breakfast as I struggle  
To forget the dead deer lying in the water body.

**Pranab Ghosh** is a journalist, writer, poet, translator and blogger. His poetry and prose have been published and accepted by Tuck Magazine, Dissident Voice, Transendent Zero Press, Scarlet Leaf Review, Literature Studio Review, Leaves of Ink, Hans India, Spillwords, The Piker Press, Visual Verse and Setu namely. He has co-authored a book of poems, titled Air & Age. He has to his credit a

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